THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) There is no firm and precise proposal under consideration in this regard.

(c) In addition to the Indian Institute of Packaging providing technical advice and expertise for development and testing of packages particularly for export, training personnel in the packaging industry disseminating information through publications, seminars and exhibitions import of suitable technologies and equipment is also facilitated.

Board to deal with rehabilitation of sick industrial companies

@3004. E. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Board to deal with rehabilitation of sick industrial companies; and

(b) if so, by when such a Board is likely to be set up and details of its constitution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 'The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Bill, 1985' which envisages, *inter-alia,* the setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction has been passed by the Lok Sabha on 9-12-1985 and by the Rajya Sabha on 16-12-1985. As envisaged in the Bill the Board shall consist of a Chairman and not less than two and not more than fourteen other Members, to be appointed by the Central Government.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2732, transferred from the 16th December, 1985.

Area of operation of Public Sector Units

@@3004. F. SHRI N. E. BALRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in one of the series of meetings with the Finance Minister in September, 1985 several trade union leaders suggested to him that the area of operation of public sector units should be expanded to cover items of mass consumption;

(b) whether it is also a fact that trade union representatives felt that employment potential and generation of greater productivity in the public sector could be achieved only through labour participation in the process of decision-making and its implementation; and

(c) if so, what is the reaction of the Government on the above points/suggestions and action being taken to introduce participation of workers in the process of decision-making and its implementation as a 'compulsory' one by way of some 'Enactment' in the near future, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) A meeting with some trade union leaders was held in order to get their views on the formulation of long term fiscal policy on 19th September, 1985. During the discussions several suggestions were made by the trade union leaders on various aspects of the economy, including the operations of public sector units and workers' participation in decision-making.

Public sector is already engaged in the production of several mass consumption items e.g. textiles, watches, drugs, vanaspati, edible oils etc. The matter relating to "Workers' participation in management and the ques-

@@Previously Unstarred Question 2750, transferred from the 16th December, 1985.

tion of statutory provisions" was discussed at the 28th Session of the Indian Labour Conference held at New Delhi on 25-26 November, 1985. The question whether this scheme should be voluntary or should be implemented by legislation was left to be considered by the Standing Labour Committee.

Constituting Labour Judicial Cadre

@3004. G. SHRI L. GANESAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to constitute Labour Judicial cadre for speedy disposal of labour cases which are pending in various tribunals/ labour courts, High Courts in the country:

(b) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) if the answer to part (b) above be in the negative, what other remedial steps are being envisaged for clearing the pending industrial disputes in the courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJAIAH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 has been amended so as to provide time bound disposal of disputes. The Industrial Disputes (Central) Rules, 1957 have been amended so as to provide time frame for different stages of the disputes. Norms for disposal of disputes have been prescribed and progress in respect of Central Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts is monitored. In so far as High Courts are concerned the Law Commission in its 79th Report on delay and arrears in High Courts and other appellate courts had recommended that priority may be given to certain types of cases (which include Labour Cases). These recommendations have been recommended to High Court. Accordingly the High Courts have been expediting and giving priority to matters under certain Acts.

@Previously Unstarrde Question 2754, transferred from the 16th December, 1985.

Import of Coking coal

@@3004. H. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import 1.18 million tonnes of coke despite the fact that there are huge stock piles of imported coking coal at the various ports awaiting clearance;

(b) if so, what is the estimated quantity of accumulated coking coal at the various ports (port-wise) stating the period for which the stock is awaiting clearance and the reasons for its non-clearance; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government to clear the accumulated stock of coking coal at the various ports before any further import?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) There is no proposal to import any coke. However, Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) is likely to import about 2.2 million tonnes of low ash metallurgical coking coal during 1985-86.

(b) As on 30th November, 1985, about 119.000 tonnes of imported coking coal was in stock at the following ports in readiness for despatch to the SAIL steel plants:—

	(in tonnes)
Vizag.	70,000
Haldia	24,000
Paradip	25,000
Total	119,000

These stocks were not abnormally high and were held at the ports to meet the operational requirements of

@@Previosuly Unstarred Question 2794, transferred from the 16th December, 1985.